

~~SECRET~~ - EYES ONLY

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I know your dilemma is to strike before the Cuban sites are operational or to risk waiting until a proper groundwork of justification can be prepared. The national security must come first. But the means adopted have such incalculable consequences that I feel you should have made it clear that the existence of nuclear missile bases anywhere is negotiable before we start anything.

Our position, then, is that we can't negotiate with a gun at our head, a gun that imperils the innocent, helpless Cuban people as much as it does the U. S., and that if they won't remove the missiles and restore the status quo ante we will have to do it ourselves -- and then we will be ready to discuss bases in the context of a disarmament treaty or anything else with them. In short it is they, not the U. S., that have upset the balance and created this situation of such peril to the whole world.

I confess I have many misgivings about the proposed course of action, but to discuss them further would add little to what you already have in mind. So I will only repeat that it should be clear as a pikestaff that the U. S. was, is and will be ready to negotiate the elimination of bases and anything else; that it is they who have upset the precarious balance in the world in arrogant disregard of your warnings -- by threats against Berlin and now from Cuba -- and that we have no choice except to restore that balance, i.e., blackmail and intimidation never, negotiation and sanity always.

Yours, \

/s/ Adlai S. Stevenson

Wednesday morning, Oct. 17

P.S. I'm returning to New York and can return, of course, at your convenience.

~~SECRET~~ - EYES ONLY

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652 SEC. 1.2(a), 3.0, 5.2 AND 7.1

State NLK-77-1036  
MAM DATE 9-12-78

Dear Mr. President -

I have reviewed the planning thereof and have the following comments for you:

As I have said I think your personal comments should deliver your messages to C and K. There is no disagreement as to C. as to K an emissary could better supplement the gravity of the situation you have communicated to Sonny's. And talking with K would afford a chance of fixing concerning his actions and objectives far better than correspondence through the "usual channels".

As to your announcement, recognizing it becomes imperative to say something soon, I think it would be a mistake at this time to disclose that an attack was imminent and that merely emphasizing the gravity of the situation, the facts, emphasizing the gravity of the situation and that further steps were in process would be enough for the first announcement.

Because an attack would very likely result in Soviet reprisals elsewhere - Turkey, Berlin etc - it is most important that you we have so much of the world



and universal understanding that we are not the weak,  
impetuous or indifferent to the fate of others are, I realize,  
only too precious to you.

I know your dilemma is to strike before the Cuban  
sites are operational or to <sup>wait</sup> until a proper ground-  
work of justification can be prepared. The national security  
must come first. But <sup>the</sup> means adopted <sup>here</sup> ~~are~~ such  
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made it clear that the <sup>existence of</sup> nuclear missile bases anywhere  
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disarmament treaty or anything else with them.  
In short it is they, not the U.S., that have upset  
the balance and created this situation of such  
peril to the whole world.

~~Dear Sir~~

I confess I have many misgivings about the proposed course of action, but to discuss them further would add little to what you already have in mind. As I would only repeat that it should be done as a fait accompli that the U.S. was, in and out, be ready to negotiate the elimination of bases and ~~any other~~ form of anything else; that it is they who have upset the precarious balance in the world in arrogant disregard of your warnings - by threats against Pakistan and now from Cuba - and that we have no choice except to restore that balance, ~~and~~ i.e., blackmail and intimidation never, negotiation and sanity always.

Yours -

John F. Kennedy

Wednesday morning Oct 17.

P.S. Lin returns to Washington and soon returns, to  
course, at your convenience.